



### Last of the litter

Snowflake and Frosty, a pair of 7-week-old mixed spaniels, are the kind of fellows that will warm your heart and home. They are residing at the Michigan Humane Society Mini Shelter, 1329 S. Woodward, and can be reached at 646-5099.

## Murphy backs new M-275 alternative

Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy has added his endorsement to a plan for a north-south state trunkline along the western edges of Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield Township.

The trunkline has been proposed by County Commissioner Robert McConnell (R-Farmington Hills). It is backed by Commerce Township officials, among others, as an alternative to the M-275 project, cancelled by the State Highway Commission a year ago.

Of western Oakland County, Murphy said, "This area, with a population of 175,000, is much larger than most cities in the nation, but does not have a north-south road wider than two lanes."

**BEGINNING** At the interchange of I-696 with the I-275 and I-96 freeways, McConnell's route would follow Haggerty Road north to the vicinity of Pontiac Trail.

There it would swing northwest

## Water rate fracas has Kuhn steamed

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Oakland County Drain Commissioner George W. Kuhn is trying to block further increases in sewage disposal rates charged by the City of Detroit's Water and Sewerage Department.

He filed complaints with a three-man panel appointed by a federal court to resolve further disputes over the water and sewerage department's services and charges. He has charged that Detroit does not yet need the funds which would be raised by the increase and that those rates discriminate against suburban customers.

Kuhn said delays in upgrading Detroit's sewage facility have reduced the amount of money needed to match federal grants for the \$60-million improvements project.

"We shouldn't be paying higher rates until Detroit actually begins construction," said Bob Fredericks, chief deputy drain commissioner for Oakland County.

**DETROIT AGREED** Last September, to a timetable to improve its sewage treatment facilities, which until that time had failed to meet federal Environmental Protection Agency standards.

The federal government will pay for 75 per cent of the project's cost and the state will contribute five per cent. Detroit planned to make up the remaining 20 per cent with the revenues of a three-part rate increase.

The first part of the increase went into effect last fall, with the second part to take effect July 1, 1978. Another increase is scheduled for July 1, 1979.

Kuhn has asked the panel to re-adjust Detroit's rate schedule and guarantee that the rates will be increased to provide only as much revenue as is actually needed.

**JOHN KANTERS**, director of the water and sewerage department, said the city has met every deadline in applying for the federal grant money required to begin improvements.

"There's been no change in what the feds or the state government requires of us," he said.

Kanters said that if there has been any slowness, it has been on the part of the federal and state governments in approving the department's grant applications.

The Oakland County drain commissioner also charged that the department's new rate structure makes suburban customers pay more than

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